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extraordinary. True it is, also, that the Ministers did not act the part of heroes during the siege; but this, as well as the previous and other points, could be told in a more dignified manner and with greater impartiality than in the harsh and passionate words of Putnam Weale. He doubtless possesses a great amount of common sense and sound judgment. Some of the characteristics which he gives of personages—as, for example, Baron von Kettler—are surprisingly true and to the point; but the merciless and scornful exposition of only the petty, feeble sides of men in responsible offices, who, after all, are only human beings, does not mean the writing of history or the writing for history.

Much of the siege was earnest, much, also, was of the character of a comedy; and the crucial test of the historian to come will be the decision of what was real and what existed only in the overstrained and almost hysterical imagination of the beleaguered. According to all we now know, the attempt to magnify the siege as a gallant and heroic defence is out of place. The Chinese, if they but wanted, could have easily stormed the British Legation and massacred all its inmates. In this point Putnam Weale is right, beyond any doubt, in his assertion that it was the division of counsels among the Chinese which alone saved every one from a shameful death. This side of the affair still belongs to the mysteries hidden behind the curtain of the Chinese stage of action; and it would be worth while living to the time when the official history of the present dynasty shall be published, that one may be able to read the whole Chinese version of the course of events. The vivid description of the barbaric loots and outrages of the foreign troops, and the author's condemnation of these brutalities are perfectly justifiable, and if not always his mode of expression, at least his sincerity and straightforwardness must be acknowledged. On the whole, his diary offers very interesting contributions to psychology rather than to history, although, also, the future historian of "Peking 1900" will have to make use of it to some advantage; but we see no reason to envy him this arduous task.

B. L.

Die Völker Chinas. Vorträge, gehalten im Seminar für orientalische Sprache zu Berlin von Alfred Forke. Berlin, Karl Curtius, 1907. 90 p.

This paper, which has grown out of two public lectures delivered last winter at the Oriental Seminary of Berlin, contains, for popular instruction, the more noticeable facts of modern Chinese life, with side-lights on the Manchu, the peoples of Mongolia, Turkistan, and Tibet. It is unpretentious, offers no new material and no novel ideas, but is quite commendable as a first aid to those who are desirous of seeking succinct information on the subject. The character of these notes is entirely synthetic, no analysis or interpretation of phenomena being given, and the author's attitude towards many questions cannot always be approved of from the standpoint of a student of culture.

B. L.